Disinvestment of BVFCL

*355. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (BVFCL) is going to be disinvested;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) what has necessitated the disinvestment when Government had revamped the unit expending more than four hundred crores of rupees and bifurcated it from the sick HFCL?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) The Disinvestment Commission in its 20th Report (May, 2003) has *inter alia* recommended that given the history of losses and poor envisaged profitability of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation limited (BVFCL), the Government should disinvest up to 74% of its equity in BVFCL to a strategic partner through the competitive bidding route.

In accordance with its declared policy, the Government's equity in all non-strategic Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), irrespective of being profit making or loss incurring, is to be brought down to 26% or below in generality of cases. BVFCL operates in the non-strategic sector. The Government has not taken a decision on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission.

Mobile and Internet services in Himachal Pradesh

*356. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the districts in Himachal Pradesh where mobile and internet services are available at present;

(b) by when the said services would be provided in the remaining districts of the State during the current year;

(c) whether there is any proposal to install BSNL service in the State for providing internet facility; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?